Accident in Baniadih Colliery, Giridih

*60. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many persons were killed and injured on 28th May, 2004 in a caved in coal mine at Baniadih Colliery in Giridih;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the next of kin of the deceased and steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) A per the information available and FIR lodged by the police, four persons were reported to have been killed in an incident at Baniadih Colliery, Giridih on 28th May, 2004.

(b) The Baniadih Colliery was abandoned in mid sixties by the erstwhile National Coal Development Corporation. Illegal mining is reported to have been carried out by outsiders at Baniadih Colliery, Giridih.

(c) No compensation was paid by Central Coalfields Limited to the next of kin as the deceased were neither employees of CCL nor suffered due to any mining activity of CCL. However, an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 5000/- was paid as a humanitarian gesture by CCL to the wife of one deceased whose body was recovered and taken by police.

The State Government had been requested by the Department of Coal to put in place an effective mechanism to check illegal mining and also to direct concerned district authorities to take effective steps to check illegal mining. The Department of Coal has again reiterated earlier instructions to the State Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Quality and price of Indian coal *vis-a-vis* other countries

†58. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of coal being produced in the country is assessed low in comparison to the coal being produced and sold by other countries in the international market;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.